

AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Replace paragraph [01] with the following new paragraph [01]:

- [01] This application claims the benefit of Provisional Application Ser. Nos. 60/272,876, filed March 2, 2001, and 60/359,007 ~~---/---/---~~, (Attorney Docket No. 2691-002P), filed February 21, 2002, both of which are incorporated herein in their entirety.

Replace paragraph [32] with the following new paragraph [32]:

- [32] It is an object of the present invention to be able to be flexible with respect to the means of detecting the conditions - whether by receiving an event stimulus from the device, object, software, or database; whether by polling (at a pre-specified interval) for information from the device, object, software, or database; whether by checking a complex combination of circumstances (such as a table of temperature and humidity conditions) to determine whether a condition needs to cause an exception; whether by checking a rolling average (e.g., the average quantity of the last three days' production); or whether by determining that the device, object, software or database is, for some reason, unavailable (e.g., due to power outages, software crashes, system faults, etc.).

Replace paragraph [86] with the following new paragraph [86]:

- [86] A process exception detection means or code appropriate to the type of information source is installed remotely via the web from a common library of process exception detection code. Once installed, the process exception detection means is registered with one messaging controller (as ~~it's~~ its administration messaging controller), and with other messaging controllers to which it might also send exceptions. Once registered, the

process exception detection means is configured; via web (e.g., HTML) pages to determine the particular set of conditions for which a stimulus will yield an exception, along with the related environmental information to be sent with the exception, and identification of the specific messaging controller(s) to which the exception will be sent.

Replace paragraph [116] with the following new paragraph [116]:

- [116] Communication of a notification to a user, can be escalated where there has been no positive acknowledgement of such communication; using a pre-defined sequence of communications methods, for example: Internet, wireless, modem, satellite, pager. Where a process exception detection means is unable to transmit an exception to a messaging controller, it can employ a pre-defined sequence of communications methods, for example: Internet, modem, satellite. ~~Where~~ When a process exception detection means is unable to communicate for an extended period of time with one or more messaging controllers, local messages may be delivered to alert local operations personnel of the situation.